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December 21, 2007

Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on Next Phase of Delta Vision Process

Dear Mr. Isenberg:

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) commends the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force for putting forward a set of recommendations addressing one of the most difficult challenges facing California today. We have reviewed the final report submitted to Governor Schwarzenegger this week and appreciate the work and thoughtful deliberation that went into developing a vision for a more sustainable Delta.

The report clearly states the time for action is now. ACWA strongly agrees. The Delta is in crisis today, with growing consequences for the state's economy and environment. We need decisive action now on a comprehensive solution that protects the environment and ensures reliable water deliveries for the economy.

As the Task Force noted in its final report, new conveyance infrastructure in the Delta and additional water storage – both upstream and downstream – must be part of that comprehensive solution. To make the vision a reality, during the next phase of the Delta Vision process the Schwarzenegger Administration must focus on improving the Delta infrastructure in a way that restores the ecosystem and improves water supply reliability.

That is not to say that conveyance must be the sole focus. ACWA recognizes that water use efficiency, levee improvements, water quality protection and ecosystem restoration also must move ahead if we are to better manage the Delta for both the environment and water users.


Given the urgency of the challenges facing our water system, a bold vision for resolving fundamental Delta problems has never been more critical. The Task Force's final report elevates the issues and lays out a sensible, holistic approach for managing the Delta while

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studying new conveyance options to better move water through and around the Delta. We believe this approach takes the discussion in a positive direction.

ACWA commends the Task Force for its work and looks forward to further participation in the Delta Vision process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Quinn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Timothy Quinn
Executive Director
Association of California Water Agencies